

Message Text

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O 081008Z NOV 73 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALDIP IMMEDIATE
NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE
USDEL RIYADH IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE
XMT AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

S E C R E T STATE 220420

EXDIS TOSEC 222

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION NO. 101

US DEL RIYADH FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY
INFORM CONSULS
VIENNA PASS USDEL MBFR
KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT AND DOHA
BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

1. SISCO VISIT TO ISRAEL-REUTERS REPORTS FROM TEL AVIV
THAT COMPLETE SECRECY WAS OBSERVED OVER PROPOSALS BROUGHT
TO ISRAEL BY ASST. SECRETARY SISCO. SISCO'S TALKS WITH
PM MEIR WERE DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT AS HAVING
BEEN HELD IN A " GOOD AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE".

2. MOOD IN ISRAEL-EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS ISRAELI
PUBLIC REMAINS ANXIOUS AND UNCERTAIN ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S
ABILITY TO WITHSTAND WHAT IS SEEN AS PROSPECTIVE US
SECRET

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PRESSURES IN DAYS AHEAD. CURRENT INDICATIONS, HOWEVER,
ARE THAT MEIR GOVERNMENT RETAINS STRENGTH TO CARRY
COALITION WITH IT IN KNESSET ON DIFFICULT DECISIONS IT
MAY HAVE TO TAKE IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. DESPITE ATMOSPHERE

OF UNCERTAINTY AND ANXIETY EMBASSY TEL AVIV DETECTS A FEW SIGNS OF POTENTIAL FLEXIBILITY EMERGING ON ISRAELI POLITICAL SCENE. ONE DEVELOPMENT IS RIGHT WING DE-EMPHASIS IN PUBLIC STATEMENT OF PAST EXTREMIST STATEMENTS OPPOSING ANY WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES. SOME ISRAELIS ALSO BEGINNING TO QUESTION PUBLICLY WHETHER RETENTION OF SHARM ES SHEIKH ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

3. POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MIDDLE EAST- USUN REPORTS THAT IF NOTHING DEFINITIVE COMES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST NOVEMBER 8, PRESSURE COULD RAPIDLY BUILD FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WHICH COULD RESULT IN MOVES FOR A STRONG RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE ISRAELIS DIRECTLY IN CONNECTION WITH RETURN TO OCT. 22 LINES.

4. EBAN'S TRIP TO ROMANIA. FM EBAN, UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM BUCHAREST, SAID ROMANIA WAS IN A GOOD POSITION TO RELAY ISRAELI VIEWS ON A ME SETTLEMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE ARAB STATES. EBAN SAID HE HAD OBTAINED A CLEARER VIEW OF EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN VIEWS DURING HIS VISIT TO ROMANIA BUT DENIED HAVING MET WITH SOVIET OR ARAB EMISSARIES.

5. UNEF/UNTSO- ON NOV. 7 SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM PROPOSED ADDING 28 ADDITIONAL AMERICANS AND A 36 MAN SOVIET ELEMENT TO UNTSO. UPI REPORTS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ARE WORKING ON A "SOAK THE RICH" PLAN TO FINANCE THE COST OF UNEF.

6. ALGERIAN POSITION ON ARAB SUMMIT- ALGIERS REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALGERIA DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ACTIVELY PROMOTING AN ARAB SUMMIT, NOR ARE THE ALGERIANS AWARE OF A DATE FOR ANY PROSPECTIVE ARAB SUMMIT MEETING.

7. UK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY- DURING NOV. 5 TOUR D'HORIZON ON ME WITH ACTING SECRETARY, UK AMBASSADOR CROMER SAID HMG FELT THREE CONDITIONS MUST BE
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MET IF SITUATION WERE NOT TO UNRAVEL: (A) MAINTENANCE OF EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE, (B) RESOLUTION OF POW ISSUE AND (C) RETURN TO LINES OF OCT. 22. THESE WERE QUINTESSENTIALLY IMPORTANT PREREQUISITES TO NEGOTIATIONS, NOT STEPS IN NEGOTIATION PROCESS ITSELF. RUSH

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